



# **Enduring Freedom Memorial Dedication**

Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Saturday, October 9, 2010

It is not in our nature -- as a people -- to seek out wars and conflicts.

But, whenever they come, when adversaries have left us no alternative, Arizonans -- men and women -- have been ready to risk their lives to face the enemy, to keep America safe.

Today, we are a nation at war.

Our service members have been engaged in combat operations for more than nine years in Iraq and Afghanistan.

So, we pause to remember those Arizonans who served and made the ultimate sacrifice for this nation -- the fallen warriors who never came home to their families and friends.

There is a special feel about this Memorial.

I think we can all sense it.

We can all feel it.

We can all see it.

Isn't it clear that its creation sprang from the heart of a SOLDIER -- someone who wore the uniform -- someone who knew war, and its sacrifices?

I believe it is.

This moving Memorial, was delivered to us by Ross Morgan, a Marine, a veteran of Vietnam, stationed in DaNang.

His work is on display throughout Arizona, but here in Wesley Bolin Plaza is where his talents have given us a rare gift --

– It is a prayer, really, for those who served, for those we lost, for those we love still.

Here, at this Memorial, we have a place where our deep debt is made known -- to those who fought -- and died -- to those who saved our liberties.

The lives and service of those we lost, belong to history, but what they have GIVEN us -- belongs to the present.

It belongs to the flag that will soon be raised over this memorial, telling us -- here memories are enshrined -- where glory shines through valiant deeds, with a simple, yet profound truth:

Our heroes have come home to the land they loved, the land they saved – America. America ...

God shed His grace on thee.